Appl. No. 10/696,014
Amdt. dated April 19, 2010
Reply to Office Action of October 19, 2009

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of activating a plurality of gift cards at a POS device, said method comprising:

entering a first card number corresponding to a first card in a series of cards into said POS device;

entering a last card number corresponding to a last card in the series of cards into the POS device;

entering a total number of n cards to be activated into the POS device;

calculating a calculated number of cards in the series of cards based on the first card number and the last card number;

comparing the entered total number of cards with the calculated number of cards to confirm whether the entered total number matches the calculated number of cards;

activating the card corresponding to said first card number; and

activating the next successive n-1 cards corresponding to the next successive n-1 card numbers based on the first card number and the total number of cards when the comparison shows that the entered total number of cards matches the calculated number of cards.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

3.   (Original) The method as described in claim 1 and further comprising:

sending an activation request from a POS device to an activation computer, wherein said activation request comprises said first card number and said total number of n cards to be activated.

4.   (Original) The method as described in claim 3 and further comprising:

sending a response to said activation request from said activation computer to said POS device, wherein said response comprises an indicator indicative of whether said series of cards have been approved for activation.

5.   (Original) The method as described in claim 1 and further comprising:

sending a void request from said POS device so as to void activation of said series of cards.

6.   (Previously Presented) A method of activating a plurality of gift cards at a POS device, said method comprising:

receiving a plurality of cards at a POS device;

entering a first indicator indicative of a first card in said plurality of cards;

entering a total number of cards in said plurality of cards;

communicating said first indicator and said total number of cards to an activation computer; and

receiving confirmation that said plurality of cards have been approved for activation based on the first indicator and the total number of cards.

7.   (Original) The method as described in claim 6 wherein said receiving confirmation comprises:

receiving a batch number.

8.   (Original) The method as described in claim 7 and further comprising:

utilizing said batch number to void said activation of said plurality of cards.

Claims 9-10 (Canceled).

11.   (Currently amended) A method of validating activation of a plurality of gift cards, said method comprising:

receiving from a POS device a first indicator indicative of a first card in a plurality of cards:

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receiving from the point of sale device a second indicator indicative of a total number of cards in said plurality of cards;

determining whether said plurality of cards can be activated based on the first indicator and the second indicator; and

communicating a validation signal so as to indicate at said POS device whether said plurality of cards can be activated;

wherein validating that the plurality of cards can be activated comprises:

determining for the first card a card type and an activation amount;

determining for each remaining card in the plurality of cards whether each remaining card is of the same card type and the same activation amount, and

wherein the communicating a signal so as to indicate at the POS device whether the plurality of cards can be activated comprises:

communicating a signal indicating that the plurality of cards cannot be activated if all of the plurality of cards do not match the activation amount and the card type.

12.   (Original) The method as described in claim 11 and further comprising:

initiating a batch process to activate each of said plurality of cards.

Claims 13-14 (Canceled).

15.   (Currently amended) The method as described in claim 11 ~~13~~ wherein said communicating a signal so as to indicate at said POS device whether said plurality of cards can be activated comprises:

communicating a positive signal indicating that said plurality of cards can be activated if all of said plurality of cards do match said activation amount and said card type.

16.   (Currently Amended) A method of activating a plurality of gift cards with a POS device, said method comprising:

receiving from a purchaser a plurality of cards for purchase;

entering a first card number into said POS device;

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entering a total number of cards making up said plurality of cards into said POS device;

receiving payment for said plurality of cards at said POS device from said purchaser;

communicating said first card number to a card activation computer;

communicating said total number of cards making up said plurality of cards to said card activation computer;

determining for the first card a card type and an activation amount;

determining for each remaining card in the plurality of cards whether each remaining card is of the same card type and the same activation amount;

activating the card corresponding to said first card number;

activating the next n-1 successive cards corresponding to the next n-1 card numbers after the first card based on the first card number and the total number of cards if the plurality of cards are determined to be of the same card type and the same activation amount.

Claims 17-18 (Canceled).

19.   (Currently amended) The method as described in claim 16 18 and further comprising:

communicating a negative signal to said POS device indicating that said plurality of cards cannot be activated if all of said plurality of cards do not match said activation amount and said card type.

20.   (Currently amended) The method as described in claim 16 18 and further comprising:

communicating a positive signal indicating that said plurality of cards can be activated if all of said plurality of cards do match said activation amount and said card type.

21.   (Currently amended) A method of selling gift cards, said method comprising:

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providing a plurality of cards having sequential card numbers, wherein the plurality of cards are secured within a common package that holds the plurality of cards together as a set;

packaging said plurality of cards in a common package;

~~configuring~~ scanning with a scanner at a POS device a first card number from a first card of the set, wherein the first card number is scanned while the plurality of cards are secured within the package ~~for detection by a bar code scanner at a POS device when scanning said package~~; and

electronically reading the last card number of a last card from the set;

activating each of the plurality of cards based on the first card number from the first card and the last card number of the last card

~~labeling said package with a total number of cards in said package for activation of the plurality of cards without entering into the POS device any card numbers except the first card number~~.

22.   (Previously Presented) A method of packaging gift cards, said method comprising:

providing as a package a plurality of cards, each of said cards having a different respective card number and wherein said card numbers form a sequential order;

providing a package identifier on said package detectable at a POS device;

wherein said package identifier comprises:

a first indicator indicating a first card number card; and

a second indicator indicating a total number of cards in said package for activation of the plurality of cards without entering into the POS device any card numbers except the first card number.

23.   (New). A method as in claim 21, wherein the package is configured so that at least one of the card numbers can be detected by the scanner.